In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A compound of formula [[(I)]] (Ia), Ib), (Ic), (Id), (Ie) or (II)

wherein

 G_1 and G_2 independently represent a tertiary carbon atom to which an unsubstituted C_1 - C_{18} alkyl or phenyl or with CN, COC_1 - C_{18} alkyl, CO-phenyl, $COOC_1$ - C_{18} alkyl, OC_1 - C_{18} alkyl, NO_2 , NHC_1 - C_{18} alkyl or $N(C_1$ - $C_{18})_2$ alkyl substituted alkyl or phenyl groups are bonded; or one of

 G_1 and G_2 is a secondary carbon atom to which a group -P(O)(OR₂₂)₂ is bonded and the other is as defined above; or

G₁ and G₂ together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded form a 5 to 8 membered heterocyclic ring or a polycyclic or spirocyclic 5 to 20 membered heterocyclic ring system which is substituted with 4 C₁-C₄alkyl groups or 2 C₅-C₁₂ spirocycloalkyl groups in the ortho position to the nitrogen atom and which may be further substituted with one or more C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy or =O groups; and which may be interrupted by a further oxygen or nitrogen atom;

with the proviso that at least one of the 4 C₁-C₄alkyl groups in ortho position to the nitrogen atom is higher alkyl than methyl;

 L_4 is a linking group selected from the group consisting of a direct bond, R_1 -Y or R_2 -C(O)-Y- where Y is attached to G_1 and/or G_2 ; C_1 - C_{25} alkylene, C_2 - C_{25} alkylene interrupted by -O-, -S-, -SO-, -SO₂-,

$$N-R_3$$
 , $C-C-C-C$, $C-C-C-C$, $C-C-C-C$, phenylene or C_5-C_8 cycloalkylene;

Q₂ is a direct bond, O, NR₅ or NR₅R₆;

 $\underline{L_3}$ is a group containing at least one carbon atom and is such that the radical $\cdot \underline{L_3}(Q^+X^-)$ derived from the group is able to initiate polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers;

-L₃(Q⁺X⁻) in formula II is a group

$$K_2$$
 K_1
 K_3

wherein

 Q_1 is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein if Q_1 is a direct bond, T_8 is hydrogen, and if Q_1 is -CH₂-, T_8 is methyl or ethyl;

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl;

T₇ is hydrogen or methyl;

 T_{10} is hydrogen or methyl;

 T_{5} and T_{6} are hydrogen or

 T_5 and T_6 together are a group =0, =NOH, =NO- T_9 or

 T_5 is hydrogen and T_6 is $-\text{O-T}_9$ or $-\text{NR}_9\text{-T}_9$ where T_9 is hydrogen, R_9 or $-\text{C(O)-R}_9$;

 T_{11} , T_{12} , T_{13} , T_{14} , T_{15} and T_{16} independently are C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl,

C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl; or

 T_{11} is hydrogen and T_{12} is a group $-P(O)(OC_2H_5)_2$ and the others are as defined above; or T_{11} and T_{14} are a group $-CH_2-O-T_9$ and the others are as defined above; or

 T_{16} is a group $-C(O)-Y-R_5$ and the others are as defined above; or T_{11} , T_{12} and T_{13} are a group $-CH_2OH$;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group -COK₄ or $-$ Z-K₅ where

 K_4 is $-Y-[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6X^{-}]_t-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-}$ or $-Y-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N^{+}R_5R_6X^{-}-\{[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}X^{-}R_5R_6]_t-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-}\}_u$, where s is a number from 0-4, t is a number from 0-4 and u is 1 and; or

$$K_4$$
 is a group $-Y Q^+X^-$, $-Y N^+R_5$ X^- or $-N$ N^+ X^- or R_6

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K_5 has the same meaning as K_4 , and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

 $Y-CH_{2}-CHOH-CH_{2}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}-\{[(CH_{2}-CH_{2})-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}]_{t}-CH_{2}-CH_{2}-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}R_{7}X^{-}\}_{u}, \\ Q^{+}X^{-}, \ -CH_{2}Q^{+}X^{-} \ or \ -CHCH_{3}Q^{+}X^{-};$

and Y is -O- or -NR₉;

wherein

R₁ is C₁-C₁₈alkylene,

R₂ is a direct bond or C₁-C₁₈alkylene,

R₃ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

R₄ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₈alkyl,

 R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, or

R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

 R_9 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkenyl, C_3 - C_{18} alkinyl, phenyl, C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C_1 - C_4 alkoxy groups ;

$$R_{22}$$
 is C_1 - C_{18} alkyl;

X is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof; and

q, and r are independently of each other a number from 0 to 10 and at least one is different from 0.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 of formula IIa, IIb, IIc, IId or IIe

$$K_3 \xrightarrow{K_1} O - N \xrightarrow{T_2} T_1 \xrightarrow{T_7} T_7 \xrightarrow{T_7} T_1 \xrightarrow{T_2} K_1 \times K_2 \times K_2 \times K_3 \times K_3 \times K_2 \times K_3 \times K_3 \times K_2 \times K_3 \times K_3 \times K_3 \times K_4 \times K_3 \times K_2 \times K_3 \times K_4 \times K_3 \times K_4 \times K_4 \times K_4 \times K_5 \times K$$

$$K_{3} \xrightarrow{K_{2}} O \xrightarrow{T_{3}} T_{4} \xrightarrow{T_{4}} O \xrightarrow{A_{1}} O \xrightarrow{A_{1}} O \xrightarrow{A_{1}} O \xrightarrow{T_{7}} T_{1} \xrightarrow{T_{2}} T_{2} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} K_{3}$$
 (IIc)

$$K_{3} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} O - N \xrightarrow{T_{1}} T_{2} \xrightarrow{O} N - [CH_{2}CH_{2}(CH_{2})_{v}O -]_{w} \xrightarrow{A_{1}} D \xrightarrow{A_{1}} [-O - CH_{2}CH_{2}(CH_{2})_{v}]_{\overline{w}} N \xrightarrow{T_{3}} T_{4} \xrightarrow{K_{2}} K_{3} \qquad (IIe)$$

wherein A_1 and A_2 are independently hydrogen or together with the carbon atom to which they are bonded form a carbonyl group, -C(O)-;

D is a direct bond or C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;

E is a group $-NR_9$ - $(CH_2)_x$ - NR_9 - where x is a number from 2 to 12, or a group

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

Y is -O- or -NR₉;

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁8alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C7-C9phenylalkyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group -COK₄ or $-$ Z- K_5 where

$$K_4$$
 is a group $-Y \longrightarrow Q^+ X^-$, $-Y \longrightarrow N^+ R_5 X^-$ or $-N \longrightarrow N^+ X^-$ or R_6

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K_5 has the meaning of K_4 , and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

 $O-CH_{2}-CHOH-CH_{2}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}-\{[(CH_{2}-CH_{2})-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}]_{t}-CH_{2}-CH_{2}-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}R_{7}X^{-}\}_{u},\\ Q^{+}X^{-},\ -CH_{2}Q^{+}X^{-}\ or\ -CHCH_{3}Q^{+}X^{-};$

5. (previously presented) A compound of formula IIIa, IIIb, IIIc, IIId or IIIe

wherein

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

Y is O or NR₉;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q1 is a direct bond, T8 is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

K₇ is a group

-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X}_u, where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or a group -D₁-Q⁺ X⁻ where D₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;

$$Q^{+}X^{-}$$
 is $-N^{+}_{R_{7}}R_{6}X^{-}$ or $-N^{+}_{R_{5}}X^{-}$, and $R_{6}R_{7}$

 R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, or

R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₈alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈alkinyl, phenyl, C₇-C₉phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C₁-C₄alkoxy groups

 X^- is the anion of a C_1 - C_{18} carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof;

K₆ is selected from the group consisting of

 (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl- $CR_{30}-C(O)-(C_6-C_{10})$ aryl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl- $CR_{30}-C(O)-(C_1-C_{12})$ alkoxy,

 (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl- CR_{30} -CO- $NH(C_1-C_{12})$ alkyl, (C_1-C_{12}) alkyl- CR_{30} -CO- NH_2 , $-CH_2CH$ =CH- CH_3 , $-CH_2CH$ = $-CH_3$, $-CH_2CH$ = $-CH_3$, $-CH_3CH$ = $-CH_3$

,
$$CN$$
, and CN , wherein

 R_{30} is hydrogen or C_1 - C_{12} alkyl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH or -C(O)R₃₀ groups; and

zIυ,

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or -COO(C_1 - C_{12})alkyl.

10/519,030 - 8 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

6. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula IVa

$$K_6-O-N$$
 T_3
 T_4
 T_4
 T_4
 T_4
 T_3
(IVa)

wherein

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

$$E_1$$
 is N_{R_6} $X^ N_{R_6}$ $X^ N_{R_6}$ where x is a number from 2 to 12;

 R_5 and R_6 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy;

X is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof:

K₆ is selected from the group consisting of

$$-CH_{2}-aryl, \quad alkyl(C_{1}-C_{18}) - C - aryl \quad , \quad -CH_{2}-CH_{2}-aryl, \quad alkyl(C_{1}-C_{18}) - aryl \quad , \quad -CH_{2}-CH_{2}-aryl, \quad alkyl(C_{1}-C_{18}) - aryl \quad , \quad -CH_{2}-CH_{2}-aryl, \quad alkyl(C_{1}-C_{18}) - aryl \quad , \quad -CH_{2}-CH_{2}-aryl, \quad -CH_{2$$

 $(C_5-C_6 \text{cycloalkyl})_2 \text{CCN}, \ (C_1-C_{12}\text{alkyl})_2 \text{CCN}, \ -\text{CH}_2 \text{CH}=\text{CH}_2, \ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C(O)}-(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}, \\ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C(O)}-(C_6-C_{10})\text{aryl}, \ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{20}-\text{C(O)}-(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkoxy}, \\ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C(O)}-\text{phenoxy}, \ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{C(O)}-\text{N-di(C}_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}, \\ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{CO-NH}(C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}, \ (C_1-C_{12})\text{alkyl}-\text{CR}_{30}-\text{CO-NH}_2, \ -\text{CH}_2 \text{CH}=\text{CH}-\text{CH}_3, \\ \end{aligned}$

10/519,030 - 9 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

 $-CH_2-C(CH_3)=CH_2, \ -CH_2-CH=CH-phenyl, \quad -CH_2-C \not = CH \qquad , \ 3-cyclohexenyl, \$

,
$$CN$$
, CN and CN , wherein

R₃₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH or --C(O) R_{30} groups; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C_1 - C_{12} alkyl, halogen, C_1 - C_{12} alkoxy, C_1 - C_{12} alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or -COO(C_1 - C_{12})alkyl.

7. (currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 of formula Va, Vb, Vc, Vd or Ve

wherein

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q_1 is a direct bond, T_8 is hydrogen, and

if Q_1 is -CH₂-, T_8 is methyl or ethyl;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁8alkyl, C₅-C₁2cycloalkyl, phenyl or C7-C9phenylalkyl and

10/519,030

1.

$$K_3$$
 is a group -COK₄ or $-$ Z-K₅ where

 K_4 is $Y-[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6X]_t-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-}$ or $-Y-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N^{+}R_5R_6X^{-}-\{[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6X]_t-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-}\}_u$, where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or

$$K_4$$
 is a group $-Y \longrightarrow Q^+ X^-$, $-Y \longrightarrow N^+ R_5 X^-$ or $-N \longrightarrow N^+ X_5$ or R_6

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K_5 has the meaning of K_4 , and

if Z is a direct bond, K5 is

O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X]_u, Q⁺X⁻, -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻;

K₇ is a group

-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X'}_u, where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 0 or 1; or a group -D₁-Q⁺ X⁻ where D₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;

$$Q^{+} X^{-} \text{ is } - \begin{matrix} R_{5} \\ I_{+} \\ R_{7} \end{matrix} = \begin{matrix} NH \\ X^{-} \\ R_{6} \end{matrix} \qquad \text{or } - \begin{matrix} NH \\ N^{+} \\ R_{5} \end{matrix} \qquad X^{-}$$

 R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, or

R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁8alkyl, C₃-C₁8alkenyl, C₃-C₁8alkinyl, phenyl, C₁-C9phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C₁-C₄alkoxy groups

X⁻ is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate,

10/519,030 - 11 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

8. (currently amended) A compound according to claim-1-of formula VIa

$$K_{2} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} O - N \xrightarrow{T_{2}} T_{1} \xrightarrow{T_{7}} T_{7} \xrightarrow{T_{7}} T_{1} \xrightarrow{T_{2}} K_{1} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} K_{2} \quad (Via)$$

wherein

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

E₁ is
$$X^{-}$$
 $\stackrel{\nearrow}{N_{6}}$ $\stackrel{\nearrow}{N_{5}}$ Where x is a number from 2 to 12;

 R_5 and R_6 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy;

X is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁8alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C7-C9phenylalkyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group -COK₄ or $-$ Z- K_5 where

$$K_4$$
 is a group $-Y$ Q^+X^- , $-Y$ N^+R_5 X^- or $-N$ N^+ X^- or R_5

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein if Z is -C(O)-, K_5 has the meaning of K_4 , and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

 $O-CH_{2}-CHOH-CH_{2}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}-\{[(CH_{2}-CH_{2})-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}X^{-}]_{t}-CH_{2}-CH_{2}-(CH_{2})_{s}-N^{+}R_{5}R_{6}R_{7}X^{-}\}_{u},\ Q^{+}X^{-},\ -CH_{2}Q^{+}X^{-}\ or\ -CHCH_{3}Q^{+}X^{-}\ \underline{;\ and}\$

R₇ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl or C₆-C₁₀heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C₁-C₄alkoxy, or

R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim [[3]] 1 of formula la1, lb1, lc1, ld1 or le1

wherein

Q₁ is a direct bond or CH₂;

 T_1 and T_3 are ethyl and T_2 and T_4 are methyl;

 T_7 is methyl or H; T_{10} is H if T_7 is methyl and T_{10} is methyl if T_7 is H;

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is H;

if Q₁ is CH₂, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

T₁₀ is H if T₂ is methyl or T₁₀ is methyl if T₂ is H;

 T_{11} , T_{12} , T_{13} , T_{14} , T_{15} and T_{16} are independently methyl or ethyl; or

 T_{11} is H, T_{12} is isopropyl, T_{13} is phenyl and T_{14} , T_{15} , and T_{16} are methyl; or

 T_{11} is H, T_{12} is $-P(=O)(OC_2H_5)_2$, T_{13} is t-butyl and T_{14} , T_{15} , and T_{16} are methyl; or

 T_{11} and T_{14} are $-CH_2O-T_9$ and T_{12} and T_{15} are methyl or phenyl and T_{13} and T_{16} are methyl or ethyl; or

 T_{11} , T_{12} , T_{13} , T_{14} , T_{15} are methyl and T_{16} is a group -CO-O-R₉ or -CON(R₉)₂; or

 T_{11} , T_{12} and T_{13} are $-CH_2OH$, T_{14} is H, T_{15} is isopropyl and T_{16} phenyl;

 T_9 is hydrogen, R_9 or $-C(O)-R_9$, where R_9 is hydrogen, C_1-C_{18} alkyl, C_3-C_{18} alkenyl, C_3-C_{18} alkinyl, phenyl or C_7-C_9 phenylalkyl;

K₁ is H, K₂ is methyl or ethyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group $-CO-K_4$ or $-CO-K_5$;

 K_4 is -Y- CH_2 - CH_2 - $(CH_2)_s$ - $N^{\dagger}X^{\dagger}R_5R_6R_7$ or; -Y- CH_2 -CHOH- CH_2 -N- CH_2 - CH_2 - $(CH_2)_s$ - $N^{\dagger}X^{\dagger}R_5R_6R_7$ where Y is O or NR_9 and S is a number from S to S:

if
$$K_3$$
 is $-Z-K_5$, Z is $-CO-$ or a direct bond; and

if Z is -CO-, K₅ has the same meaning as K₄;

if Z is a direct bond, K_5 is a group -O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺X⁻R₅R₆R₇ or -CH₂N⁺R₅R₆R₇ X⁻ and

X is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

10. (currrently amended) A compound according to claim 4 of formula IIa1, IIb1, IIc1 or IId1

SE/25-22707/A/PCT

$$K_{2} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} O - N \xrightarrow{T_{2}} T_{1} \xrightarrow{T_{7}} O - Q_{1} T_{8} \xrightarrow{O} O \xrightarrow{D} O \xrightarrow{T_{8}} Q_{1} \xrightarrow{O} \xrightarrow{T_{7}} T_{1} T_{2} \xrightarrow{K_{1}} N - O \xrightarrow{K_{1}} K_{2}$$

$$(IId1)$$

wherein

Q₁ is a direct bond or CH₂;

 T_1 and T_3 are ethyl and T_2 , T_4 and T_7 are methyl;

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is H; and

if Q_1 is CH_2 , T_8 is methyl or ethyl;

D is a direct bond, C₁-C₁₂alkylene or phenylene;

E is $-NR_5-(CH_2)_x -NR_5$ - where x is 2 to 12 or a group

K₁ is H, K₂ is methyl or ethyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group $-CO-K_4$ or $-CO-K_5$;

 K_4 is -Y- CH_2 - CH_2 - $(CH_2)_s$ - $N^{\dagger}X^{T}R_5R_6R_7$ or -Y- CH_2 -CHOH- CH_2 -N- CH_2 - CH_2 - $(CH_2)_s$ - $N^{\dagger}X^{T}R_5R_6R_7$, where Y is O or NR_9 and s is a number from 0 to 2;

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₈alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈alkinyl, phenyl or C₇-C₉phenylalkyl;

if
$$K_3$$
 is $-Z-K_5$, Z is $-CO-$ or a direct bond;

if Z is -CO-, K₅ has the same meaning as K₄;

if Z is a direct bond, K_5 is a group -O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺X⁻R₅R₆R₇ or -CH₂N⁺R₅R₆R₇ X⁻;

and

X is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate,

10/519,030 - 15 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof.

- **11.** (currently amended) A process for preparing a monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion comprising the steps of
 - A) providing a first aqueous dispersion of a natural or synthetic clay which can be partially intercalated and/or exfoliated and wherein said clay has an exchangeable cation; adding to said dispersion and exchanging said cation at least partially a compound according to claim 1 or

a compound of formula IIIa, IIIb, IIIc, IIId, IIIe, IVa, Va, Vb, Vc, Vd or Ve

$$K_6-O-N$$
 E_1
 T_4
 T_4
 T_3
 T_4
 T_4
 T_3
(IVa)

wherein

 T_1 , T_2 , T_3 and T_4 are independently methyl or ethyl with the proviso that at least one is ethyl; T_7 is hydrogen or methyl;

Y is O or NR₉;

Q₁ is a direct bond or a -CH₂- group; wherein

if Q₁ is a direct bond, T₈ is hydrogen, and

if Q₁ is -CH₂-, T₈ is methyl or ethyl;

v is a number from 0 to 10 and w is 0 or 1;

K₁ and K₂ are hydrogen, C₁-C₁8alkyl, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkyl, phenyl or C7-C9phenylalkyl and

$$K_3$$
 is a group -COK₄ or $-$ Z-K₅ where

 $K_4 \text{ is } Y-[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6X]_t-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-} \text{ or } \\ -Y-CH_2-CHOH-CH_2-N^{+}R_5R_6X^{-}-\{[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6X]_t-CH_2-CH_2-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X\}_u, \\ \text{where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or } \\ K_4 \text{ is } Y-[(CH_2-CH_2)-(CH_2)_s-N^{+}R_5R_6R_7X^{-}]_t$

$$K_4$$
 is a group $-Y \longrightarrow Q^+ X^-$, $-Y \longrightarrow N^+ R_5 X^-$ or $-N \longrightarrow N^+ X_5$ or R_6

Z is -C(O)- or a direct bond, wherein

if Z is -C(O)-, K₅ has the meaning of K₄, and

if Z is a direct bond, K₅ is

O-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆R₇ X]_u, Q⁺X⁻, -CH₂Q⁺X⁻ or -CHCH₃Q⁺X⁻;

K₇ is a group

-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-N⁺ R₅R₆ X⁻-{[(CH₂-CH₂)-(CH₂)_s-N⁺ R₅R₆ X]_t-CH₂-CH₂-(CH₂)_s-N⁺R₅R₆R₇ X⁻}_u, where s and t are each a number from 0-4 and u is 1; or a group -D₁-Q⁺ X⁻ where D₁ is C₁-C₁₂alkylene, C₁-C₁₂alkylene which is interrupted by one or more O, S, or NR₉ atoms, C₅-C₁₂cycloalkylene or phenylene;

$$Q^{+}X^{-}$$
 is $-N_{R_{7}}^{+}R_{6}X^{-}$ or $-N_{R_{5}}^{+}X^{-}$, and $R_{6}R_{7}$

 R_5 , R_6 and R_7 are each independently of the others hydrogen, C_1 - C_{18} alkyl, C_3 - C_{12} cycloalkyl, phenyl or C_7 - C_9 phenylalkyl or C_6 - C_{10} heteroaryl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by halogen, OH, NO₂, CN, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, or

R₅, R₆ and R₇ together with the nitrogen or phosphorous atom to which they are bonded form a 3-12 membered monocyclic or polycyclic ring which may contain further heteroatoms;

R₉ is hydrogen, C₁-C₁₈alkyl, C₃-C₁₈alkenyl, C₃-C₁₈alkinyl, phenyl, C₇-C₉phenylalkyl, which all may be unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydroxy, halogen or C₁-C₄alkoxy groups

X⁻ is the anion of a C₁-C₁₈carboxylic acid which may contain more than one carboxylic acid group, fluoride, chloride, bromide, iodide, nitrite, nitrate, hydroxide, acetate, hydrogen sulfate, sulfate, C₁-C₁₈alkoxy sulfate, aromatic or aliphatic sulfonate, carbonate, hydrogen carbonate, perchlorate, chlorate, tetrafluoroborate, borate, phosphate, hydrogen phosphate, dihydrogen phosphate or mixtures thereof;

$$\underline{E_1 \text{ is}} = \underbrace{N_+ R_6}_{N_- (CH_2)x} \underbrace{N_+ R_5}_{N_6} = \underbrace{N_+ R_6}_{N_6} = \underbrace{N_+ R_$$

 K_{6} is selected from the group consisting of

(C₅-C₆cycloalkyl)₂CCN, (C₁-C₁₂alkyl)₂CCN, -CH₂CH=CH₂, (C₁-C₁₂)alkyl-CR₃₀-C(O)-(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl,

10/519,030 - 18 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

$$-CH_2-C(CH_3)=CH_2, \ -CH_2-CH=CH-phenyl, \quad -CH_2-C \not = CH \\ \quad \text{, 3-cyclohexenyl, 3-cyclopentenyl,} \\$$

$$CN$$
, CN , and CH , wherein

R₃₀ is hydrogen or C₁-C₁₂alkyl;

the alkyl groups are unsubstituted or substituted with one or more -OH, -COOH or $-C(O)R_{30}$ groups; and

the aryl groups are phenyl or naphthyl which are unsubstituted or substituted with C₁-C₁₂alkyl, halogen, C₁-C₁₂alkoxy, C₁-C₁₂alkylcarbonyl, glycidyloxy, OH, -COOH or -COO(C₁-C₁₂)alkyl.

- B) adding to said dispersion at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer and polymerizing at least a portion of said ethylenically unsaturated monomer.
- **12.** (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein the water phase of step A) is at least partially removed before performing step B).
- **13.** (previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the compound is added in an amount of from 1% to 100% by weight, based on the weight of the clay.
- **14.** (**previously presented**) A process according to claim 11 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomer or oligomer is selected from the group consisting of styrene, substituted styrenes, conjugated dienes, acrolein, vinyl acetate, vinylpyrrolidone, vinylimidazole, maleic anhydride, (alkyl)acrylic acid anhydrides, (alkyl)acrylic acid salts, (alkyl)acrylic esters, (meth)acrylonitriles and (alkyl)acrylamides, vinyl halides and vinylidene halides or mixtures thereof.
- **15.** (previously presented) A process according to claim 14 wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomers are styrene, α -methyl styrene, p-methyl styrene or a compound of formula $CH_2=C(R_a)-(C=Z)-R_b$, wherein R_a is hydrogen or C_1-C_4 alkyl, R_b is NH_2 , $O^-(Me^+)$, glycidyl, unsubstituted

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10/519,030 - 19 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

 C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy, C_2 - C_{100} alkoxy interrupted by at least one N and/or O atom, or hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{18} alkoxy, unsubstituted C_1 - C_{18} alkylamino, di(C_1 - C_{18} alkyl)amino, hydroxy-substituted C_1 - C_{18} alkylamino or hydroxy-substituted di(C_1 - C_{18} alkyl)amino, -O- CH_2 - CH_2 -N(CH_3) $_2$ or -O- CH_2 - CH_2 -N $^+$ H(CH_3) $_2$ An $^-$; wherein An $^-$ is an anion of a monovalent organic or inorganic acid;

Me is a monovalent metal atom or the ammonium ion and Z is oxygen or sulfur.

- **16.** (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein an acid containing unsaturated monomer is added, which is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic anhydride, maleic anhydride, itaconic anhydride, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, itaconic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, acryloxypropionic acid, (meth)acryloxypropionic acid, styrene sulfonic acid, ethylmethacrylate-2-sulphonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methylpropane, sulphonic acid; phosphoethylmethacrylate; the corresponding salts of the acid containing monomer, and combinations thereof.
- 17. (original) A process according to claim 11 wherein step B) is repeated with a second ethylenically unsaturated monomer which is different from the first one, leading to a block copolymer.
- **18.** (previously presented) A process according to claim 11 wherein the natural or synthetic clay is selected from the group consisting of montmorillonite, saponite, beidellite, montronite, hectorite, stevensite, vermiculite, kaolinite, hallosite, synthetic phyllosilicates, and combinations thereof.
- **19.** (**previously presented**) A monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion obtained by a process according to claim 11.
- **20.** (original) A composition comprising an aqueous dispersion of a natural or synthetic clay which is partially intercalated and/or exfoliated and a compound according to claim 1.
- **21.** (previously presented) A composition according to claim 20, which contains additionally an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and/or an organic solvent.
- **22.** (previously presented) A method for the polymerization of ethylenically unsaturated monomers which comprises polymerizing said monomers in the presence of a catalytically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

10/519,030 - 20 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT

23. (previously presented) A method of improving the properties of paints, coatings, inks, adhesives, reactive diluents or thermoplastic materials which comprises incorporating a monomer/polymer clay nanocomposite dispersion according to claim 19 therein.

10/519,030 - 21 - SE/25-22707/A/PCT